

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

A method and an apparatus that automatically controls the optimum output of a laser diode . The apparatus automatically controls the output of a laser diode based on the results of a comparison between the current power value of an optical signal output from a laser diode and a basic power value. The apparatus includes: a sampler to sample the current power value output from the laser diode; a register unit to store the output of the sampler; a basic register unit to store a basic value; an operation unit to output a target output value applied to the laser diode based on the current power value and the basic power value stored in the register unit and the basic register unit; and a pulse generator to generate a control signal that controls the storing timing of the register unit based on recording data to be recorded by the laser diode. The apparatus can be effectively adapted to an optical recording/regenerating apparatus of high speed and high capacity, and can be attributed to the performance improvement and downsizing of the optical recording/reproducing apparatus.